

GERANOMYIA BEZZII ALEXANDER & LEONARD (DIPTERA: LIMONIIDAE), A MARINE SPECIES NEW TO IRELAND

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On 5.vii.1991 one of us (J.P.O'C.) collected a single male of the marine limoniid, *Geranomyia bezzii* Alexander & Leonard, at Fethard, Co. Wexford (S7905). It was identified using Coe (1950). This is the first record of this species from Ireland and represents a significant extension of its range in the British Isles. A coastal lagoon exists at the Fethard site and the specimen was probably collected near the high-water mark where mud flats are present. Shingle banks also occur there.

Another *Geranomyia* species is known from several Irish sites. Haliday (1833) originally described *G. unicolor* from adults taken among the rocks near the harbour at Donaghadee, Co. Down in the middle of July 1832. This species breeds in salt water, the larvae having been discovered in filamentous algae (Saunders, 1930).

G. bezzii is also marine and according to Geiger (1986) the larva is described by Seurat (1924). It is only known from seven coastal sites in southern Britain in counties Devon, Dorset (2 sites), Hants, Sussex, Suffolk and Norfolk (Stubbs, 1978; Falk, 1991). *G. bezzii* is listed in the British Red Data Book as a vulnerable species (Shirt, 1987). It inhabits coastal lagoons where the upper tidal shore has gravel with the alga *Enteromorpha*. One of the few marine craneflies independent of saltmarsh, its potential habitat is of limited occurrence. Threats include sailing and other amenity facilities and gravel extraction.

Outside the British Isles the species is known from Albania, Italy, North Africa (Algeria, Libya and Tunisia) and the Canary Islands (Savchenko *et al.*, 1992). This disparate distribution indicates that the species is probably more widely distributed and it could be expected in coastal lagoons on the French, Spanish and Portuguese coasts and throughout the Mediterranean basin region. The specimen has been presented to the National Museum of Ireland.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Larvae of the British macrolepidoptera—a plea.—Those who have attended the annual exhibition over the last few years will be aware of the work being done to photograph the larvae of all the butterflies and larger moths. All except about 30 have now been photographed, and text is being prepared for eventual publication. While we accept that we can never expect to find every species that is on the British list, it should still be possible to find some of these 30 species. We therefore appeal to all British and Continental lepidopterists to make every effort to make this important work as complete as possible. What is needed are the larvae, or females or ova which might lead to the species being bred, or alternatively, good quality slides. British or foreign material is acceptable. The larvae required are:

hecta	gold swift	sublusttris	reddish light arches
castaneae	reed leopard	furva	confused
asella	triangle	versicolor	rufous minor
arion	large blue	captiuncula	least minor
epiphron	mountain ringlet	brevilinea	Fenn's wainscot
otregiata	Devon carpet	crinanensis	Crinan ear
taeniata	barred carpet	oculea	ear moth
blomeri	Blomer's rivulet	tridens	Burren green
coracina	black mountain moth	haworthii	Haworth's minor
sericea	northern footman	musculosa	Brighton wainscot
cribraria	speckled footman	parva	small marbled
strigula	small black arches	salicalis	lesser belle
aerugula	scarce black arches	taenialis	white-line snout
ravida	stout dart	humidalis	marsh oblique barred
irregularis	viper's bugloss	emortalis	olive crescent
diffinis	white-spotted pinion		

We would also be interested in foreign material of extinct British species such as dysodea (small ranunculus), atriplicis (orache) etc.

If you can help in any way please contact—Jim Porter, 45 King Charles Road, Surbiton, Surrey, Tel. 081 399 9592.

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